

RPA Committee Meeting Minutes

.....August 8, 2013

Present: Rich Spinelli, Carl Miller, Rick Kase, Fred Haynes, Bob Kingston, Chuck Schultz, Frank Tritto, and Ray Stone

Absent- Tom Fortunato, Dave Robinson

Compiled by Fred Haynes

President Rich Spinelli called the meeting to order at 7:00 AM and proposed an agenda to include

- A. Establish objectives for the club in coming year, discuss means to manage achieving objectives
- B. Establish a format for bi-monthly club meetings
- C. Firming the fall program to the extent possible
- D. Suggesting tentative sub-committees for the club and “assigning” stewardship
- E. Any other issues/business from any present

A) Establish objectives for the club in coming year,

The group discussed possible objectives (some new, some recurring) that could/should be a focus. The intent was not to “work the issue” at this meeting, but establish an agreed upon objective and perhaps a process (not specifics) by which objective could be reached

1) Youth programs –

- Can we help Mary Iman and/or expand the reach of our programs?
- Schools are hard to get into. How about library programs? Boy Scout merit badge?
- We need a champion. Maybe under Publicity Committee.
- Design-a-Stamp program suggests that some interest can be generated

2) Increase Club Membership and Membership Attendance at meetings (possibly two objectives here)

- Can we offer rides to folks who cannot get there (offer in Hinges and Tongs)
- Can we enrich the meeting content?
- Provide more opportunities for people to learn ?
- Survey those at mtgs. for ideas to improve meeting content/align with interests
- As VP, Carl is most likely candidate to oversee this, particularly mtg. content

3) ROPEX

- all agreed this has been highlight event of recent year’s programs and needs little improvement
- we hope Tom Fortunato will continue to lead this effort, he does it well
- it would be nice if we could get more the youth to attend **ROPEX**

4) Conduct off-site philatelic activities

- a) more displays at libraries, senior centers (Publicity committee)
- b) malls, trade shows, collector venues, etc. (we need ideas)

We will revisit this list at August 22nd meeting, look to assign champions, and discuss any other ideas that we have.

B) Establish a format for bi-monthly club meetings

Rich brought a proposed "schedule" that he proposed we used to formalize the flow of a club meeting. Group accepted the concept, tinkered with time allotments recognizing they were flexible anyway, and agreed to try to have more regular items in the schedule. Rich carried away suggestions and will update his mtg. schedule per comments and bring to Aug. 22nd mtg.

C) Firming the fall schedule for meetings

We had two of the 6 slots filled prior to the meeting. Now we have tentative plans for the entire period. Some have titles, others do not and still require contact/confirmation

Thursday, Sept 12..... "What I did this summer" TBA -- all members participate
Thursday, Sept 26..... George Fekete - Rich Spinelli will contact to confirm and obtain title
Thursday, Oct 10..... John Babbit – Rick Kase will contact to confirm and obtain title
Thursday, Oct 24..... "Psycho-Philately: Adolph Hitler" by Dr. Anthony Labrum
Thursday, Nov 14..... "Minerals on Stamps" by Fred Haynes
Thursday, Dec 12..... "Medical Stamps" by Steve Eisinger

Relative to fall club schedule and program, we also discussed

- i) changing the November and December dates to allow for more meetings. Group did not see that plausible and we agreed to leave the dates as above
- ii) a winter/spring program on "Exhibiting" techniques, do's and don'ts. Possibly to include opportunity to have members bring mini-exhibits for "show and tell", constructive input, etc. Maybe in March so those inclined could improve and exhibit in May at ROPEX. Wouldn't it be great if 10 or so members exhibited single frame exhibits for the first time at our show?
- iii) possible non conventional fall mtg. --- perhaps a fall banquet instead of spring to offset ROPEX banquet, possibly a Saturday mtg. to offset the loss of mtgs. in Nov/Dec. Will consider at next mtg.
- iv) we discussed idea of a called auction with both member and club items for a spring event
- v) for Thursday mtgs. doors will open ~6:45, Bob Kingston will facilitate set-up (possibly with new layout to accommodate more folks) and the informal 30 minutes of the mtg. will remain from 7:00-7:30.

D) Suggesting tentative sub-committees for the club and "assigning" stewardship

We agreed with Rich's idea to establish committees and assign members. We will work this further at next meeting, but for now.

Membership - Florence Wright

Programs for Meetings and Other Events - Carl Miller

Publicity - Fred Haynes

ROPEX - Tom Fortunato

Youth Programs - undecided

E) Other Business and Miscellaneous Items. Most require discussion on Aug 22nd meeting

- i) Hinges and Tongs is in prep. Fred brought a copy and received feedback and ideas. Plan is to finalize by end of August.
- ii) We need multiple people familiar with setting up projector systems. Tom may be only one trained. Can he train others and perhaps we need a brief write-up/ schematic of how things work
- iii) We tabled further discussion of status and plans for excess frames until 22nd when Tom and Dave are present.
- iv) We hope Florence can make our August 22nd meeting and we'll discuss methods/issues related to collecting yearly dues at that meeting. It seems we have to track too many folks down for too long.
- v) Who knows the status of the club printer? Does club need to acquire a simple laptop to stay in the meeting room. Perhaps a member is upgrading and could sell us one inexpensively.
- vi) Rich will distribute members list/addresses to committee members
- vii) Should meeting minutes from committee mtgs. be posted to the website ? With this as an example we can discuss on the 22nd.

Frank Tritto was thanked for hosting meeting and providing drinks/cannolis
Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Next meeting scheduled for 7:00 PM at Frank Tritto's house on Thursday Aug. 22nd.